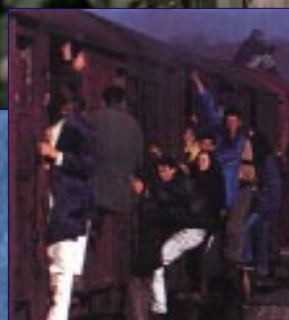


1LT Jeff O'Donnell
Reserve Officers' Training Corps
University of Notre Dame
Bachelor of science in electrical engineering
Platoon leader, A Company, 121st Signal Battalion
Operation Joint Guard
Tuzla, Bosnia

"I deployed to Tuzla in March 1997 and took over as the platoon leader for the primary node center in the Operation Joint Guard mobile subscriber equipment network. We supported more than 600 subscribers on nine base camps in the Multinational Division North sector, as well as links to Germany and Sarajevo. I also worked as a battle captain in 121st Signal Battalion's system control center, where we were in charge of controlling and maintaining the entire MSE network. I led two contingency radio access unit missions, one for Conplan Vulcan for a weapons inspection site (June 1997) and one for the Bosnian municipal elections (September 1997). In June 1997, we fielded the new enhanced switch operating system switches in the middle of the real-world network, which required a difficult switchout while trying to minimize network downtime. My unit redeployed from Bosnia in October 1997. I had 35 soldiers and 25 vehicles, including 16 communications assemblages.

"Signal's greatest achievement in Bosnia has been our ability to maintain reliable, quality communications throughout personnel and equipment changeovers, bad weather and political turmoil. We are using MSE, which was designed for rapid, mobile warfare, and we adapted it to a static environment. We were able to integrate a variety of commercial and non-U.S. systems to link all facets of the stabilization force in one greater network. We have also been able to keep data flowing despite the fact that the amount of information has been much greater than the system was designed for. The military communications have been much more reliable than the commercial system that was supposed to replace them."

The Signal experience



Signal soldiers' greatest achievement in Bosnia has been maintaining reliable, quality communications through personnel and equipment changeovers, bad weather and political turmoil.

Refugees cram into train "cattle" cars to escape battle zones in Bosnia.

❖ *The challenges are real; the mission is global; the opportunities are limitless.*

mercial access, Regimental officers ensure the information gets to the right place at the right time.

Regiment's functional areas

FA 24 is a functional area in the information operations career field. Information systems engineering officers focus on WANs and specific aspects within computer science. FA 24 officers engineer, design, develop, install, implement, integrate, test and

accept information systems and networks in support of Army and DoD operations worldwide.

FA 24 officers should have a bachelor or master of science degree in computer science, electrical engineering, telecommunications engineering, math, physics or a related discipline.

FA 53 is also a functional area in the IO CF. Information systems management officers focus on managing

information within a LAN. FA 53 officers supervise automated information processing for units, installations, and activities. They advise commanders and staff on computer information systems policy and technical matters. They plan and manage the integration of hardware, software and data communications at the user interface level. FA 53 officers supervise installing, operating and administering computer systems and LANs at all organi-